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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KEN SALAZAR, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the true light of life whose power no earthly force can challenge and whose reign no alien god can shake, open our hearts to what You have done for us, what You are doing even now, and what You promise for us in the future.

Draw near to our lawmakers as they work. Let the consciousness of Your presence fill their minds with peace. Use them today to defend those who are helpless and have lost all hope. Quicken their memories to recall the many times You have intervened to keep our Nation safe. Let the warmth of Your divine solace scatter the shadows of perplexity and doubt, as You encircle them with the wonder of Your love.

Lord, on this 40th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., bring unity to our land.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KEN SALAZAR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 4, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KEN SALAZAR, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SALAZAR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to resume consideration of the housing legislation. There will be 2 minutes for debate equally divided between the proponents and opponents of the amendments. The Senate will proceed to vote in relation to the Voinovich amendment, to be followed by a vote in relation to the Landrieu amendment. I have been told those two amendments will be modified. I think they will be approved.

I would say to all Members of the Senate, I have spoken to the Republican leader. We have a cloture motion ready to file sometime this afternoon. If we can, we will come up with a consent agreement that we can have a time for final passage on this bill on Tuesday. Before doing that, we would have to know what amendments are going to be offered. We would have to have a finite list of amendments so we knew that. We will all be in communication with the Republican leader. We will either go cloture or we will go with a consent agreement to finish on Tuesday. There has been a good debate on this bill. There will be managers

available all afternoon to offer amendments that Senators want to offer. We will be available here on Monday. People can offer amendments. So there is plenty of time to offer amendments on this bill.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT AND THE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT OF 2007

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3221, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3221) moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

Pending:

Dodd/Shelby amendment No. 4387, in the nature of a substitute.

Voinovich amendment No. 4406 (to amendment No. 4387), to protect families most vulnerable to foreclosure due to a sudden loss of income by extending the depreciation incentive to loss companies that have accumulated alternative minimum tax and research and development tax credits.

Landrieu modified amendment No. 4389 (to amendment No. 4387), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow use of amended income tax returns to take into account receipt of certain hurricane-related casualty loss grants by disallowing previously taken casualty loss deductions, and to waive the deadline on the construction of GO Zone

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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